

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-5, 8, 12, 15-17, and 19 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as lacking antecedent basis. Claims 1-5, 8, 12, 15-17, and 19 are amended to obviate the objection. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kuribayashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,909,728). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Specifically, Applicants assert that Kuribayashi does not disclose or suggest "*a system comprising a digital communication network for data transmission, comprising audio type data, between a master module and a plurality of slave modules, each module comprising at least one network terminal to connect the communication network to the module, at least one network terminal of a slave module being connected to a network terminal of another module by means of the communication network, the system wherein the master module comprises a synchronization clock and supplies data frames comprising synchronization information on its network terminal, each slave module comprising clock reconstitution means, from the synchronization information of the data frames received on its network terminal, and recognition means, synchronized by the associated clock reconstitution means, to recognize the data intended for said slave module so as to ensure synchronous transmission of the data within the system, the system wherein all the data frames are generated by the master module*," as recited in independent claim 1.

The amendment of claim 1 is supported on page 11, lines 4-7 in the specification of the present invention, "*all the frames, with their synchronization pips, are generated by the master module 1. The slave modules can read the data contained in a frame and possibly*

insert data at a predetermined location of the frame, but they can in no case create a new frame."

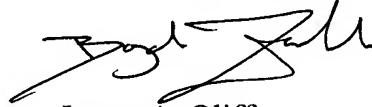
Kuribayashi, in column 3, lines 66-67, with reference to Figure 1, discloses a communication system wherein "the TX node 2 sequentially transmits data packets, e.g., packets 6-24, 6-32, 6-40 ... at a predetermined time interval." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Kuribayashi does not disclose a system wherein all the data frames are generated by the master module.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-20 depend from claim, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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